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NSC BRIEFING

20 December 1960

TO: DIRECTOR, CIA  
FROM: NSC  
SUBJECT: NEPAL  
CLASS: SECRET  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
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REVIEWER:   
NEPAL

- I. King Mahendra's motivation in assuming direct rule on 15 December appears to have stemmed largely from:
  - A. His increasing dissatisfaction with Koirala government's lack of progress and apparent inability to maintain law and order.
  - B. His fear that the popular Koirala might one day eclipse or try to overthrow monarchy.
- II. Nearly all leading politicians, including some top Communists, have been rounded up (about 50 thus far); Army remains loyal and populace is quiet.
- III. King apparently plans direct rule for some time, probably with aid of non-political council of ministers.
  - A. Foreign policy of non-alignment will continue, though King is apt to be less realistic in dealing with Bloc, perhaps more reserved with West, and more suspicious of Indians.
    1. New Delhi was surprised and is highly disturbed at ouster of a government which has 2/3 majority in parliament (74 of 109 seats) and which India had supported.
    2. New Delhi seems unable or unwilling to act at this time, however.
  - B. Internally, King will probably be even less effective than Koirala, thus providing Communists with further issues to exploit.
  - C. Outlook is for period of governmental inaction followed by increasing political unrest and economic deterioration.

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